

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01916 260822Z
ACTION IO-14

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R 260624Z JUN 78

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1165

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1916

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH YO

SUBJ: SINO-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS: ELEVENTH LCY CONGRESS

REF: PEKING 1914

1. THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S JUNE 19 MESSAGE TO THE ELEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE YUGOSLAV LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS HAS PUT THE SEAL OF FULL PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND BELGRADE. THE MESSAGE STATES THAT THE LCY "HAS APPLIED THE UNIVERSAL TRUTH OF MARXISM-LENINISM TO THE CONCRETE PRACTICE OF YUGOSLAVIA" AND "HAS WON CONTINUOUS VICTORIES IN THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM" -- BOTH FORMULATIONS INDICATING THAT PEKING AS OVERCOME ITS PREVIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE GENUINENESS OF THE YUGOSLAV ROAD TO SOCIALISM. (COMMENT: A YUGOSLAV EMBOFF TOLD A WESTERN EUROPEAN COLLEAGUE IN PEKING THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD WORKED OUT THE TEXT OF THE CHINESE MESSAGE LAST

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JANUARY. END COMMENT).

2. THE MESSAGE ALSO SPEAKS APPROVINGLY OF YUGOSLAVIA'S SOCIALIST SELF-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND ITS FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. IT CALLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF "REVOLUTIONARY FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO PARTIES, TWO COUNTRIES AND TWO PEOPLES".

3. CHINESE MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LCY CONGRESS. PEOPLE'S DAILY JUNE 22 PRINTED A FULL PAGE OF EXCERPTS FROM TITO'S ADDRESS, WHILE NCNA CARRIED A SHORTER VERSION. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC'S REMARKS ON NON-ALIGNMENT HAVE ALSO RECEIVED WIDESPREAD COVERAGE (REFTEL).

4. A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE JUNE 25, SUMMING UP THE CONGRESS, REPORTED THAT THE READING OF THE CHINESE MESSAGE HAD BEEN GREETED BY APPLAUSE WHICH "RESOUNDED LIKE OCEAN WAVES BLOWN UP BY THE POWERFUL SPRING WINDS." IT ALSO STATED THAT PEKING'S GENEROUS PRESS TREATMENT OF THE CONGRESS HAD NOT PASSED UNNOTICED IN BELGRADE.

5. COMMENT: ONE OF THE MAJOR BENEFITS TO THE PRC FROM NORMALIZED PARTY RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA WILL BE A CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OF WHICH TITO IS THE LAST SURVIVING FOUNDER. WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY BELGRADE'S COMMENTS AS TO THE PROSPECTS FOR YUGOSLAV COOPERATION WITH CHINA IN TURNING THAT MOVEMENT AWAY FROM ITS SOMETIMES RATHER PRO-SOVIET TENDENCIES.
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